## Approved For Release 2000/08/31: CIA-RDP78S01932A000100100032-2

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ITEM NO:

DATE: D30 OCT 74

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN SOUTH VIETNAM'S MILITARY COMMAND

REF :

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ZAIDMI FIDO DE FZZBRY ZUOIRAV

PRESIDENT THIEU ANDNOUNCED TODAY THAT HE WILL REPLACE THE MILITARY COMMANDERS OF MILITARY REGIONS 2, 3, 0 AND 4,

MAJOR GENERAL PHAM VAN PHU WILL REPLACE GENERAL TOAN AS COMMANDER OF MR-2. PHU HAS BEEN COMMANDING THE QUANG TRUNG TRAINING CENTER - PRIMARILY TO ENABLE HIM TO RECUPERATE FROM SEVERE PHYSICAL EXHAUSTION THAT FOLLOWED THE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE IN 1972. HIS REPUTATION AS A MILITARY COMMANDER IS GOOD.

GENERAL NGUYEN VAN TOAN UILL BE REPLACED AS COMMUNICATIONANDER DOM'S REPUTATION AS A COMBAT OF MR-3 BY LT. GENERAL DO QUOC DONG.

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COMMANDER IS POOR AND HIS APPOINTMENT APPEARS TO BE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED.

THE DELTA COMMANDER, GENERAL NGUYEN VINH NGHI, WILL BE REPLACED BY MAJOR DIGENERAL NGUYEN KHOA NAM, PRESENT COMMANDER OF THE 7TH INFANTRY DIVISION. NAM HAS BEEN COMMANDER OF THE 7TH--TRADITIONALLY REGARDED AS THE DELTA'S BEST DIVISION--SINCE 1970. NAM'S REPUTATION AS A COMBAT COMMANDER AND LEADER IS EXCELLENT AND LIKE THE OTHER TWO GENERALS HE HAS NOT BEEN TAINTED WITH ANY CHARGES OF ILLICIT ACTIVITY.

NEW DIVISIONAL COMMANDERS ALSO WERE ANNOUNCED FOR THE 7TH<sub>3</sub> BLST<sub>3</sub> AND BSTH INFANTRY DIVISIONS.

THE US EMBASSY IN SAIGON HAS NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM PRESS
RUMORS THAT SIX CABINET MINISTERS HAVE RESIGNED. E2 IMPDET
25X1A9a

ESPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: EAP DIV, NIO

DATE: 30 OCT 74

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